

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 14 and 24 have been amended. Claims 4, 14, 24 and 25 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 4, 14, 24 AND 25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY DENICOLA (U.S. PATENT NO. 5,666,538)

The rejections of claims 4, 14, 24 and 25 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

It appears that the Examiner has examined the claims as originally filed and did not take into consideration the claims as presented in the Preliminary Amendment, filed September 23, 2003. However, arguments are provided below to distinguish the pending claims over DeNicola.

Independent claim 4 is directed to a method for controlling power consumption of a management apparatus to which an electronic apparatus is connected via a network. The management apparatus has a common device that is shared with the electronic apparatus. By detecting the accessed state to the common device by the electronic apparatus, components (e.g., file components) contained in the common device are rearranged so as to control the operational state of the common device.

In contrast, DeNicola discloses a technique in which the disk speed is controlled according to the load. When the load is high, one or more disk drives speed up. If the load is low, the disk drives slow down. This technique is irrelevant to the present invention, which is rearranges components contained in the common device so as to control the operational state of the common device, as recited in independent claim 4.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Similarly, amended independent claim 14 recites a shared device control unit which controls an operational state of the common device, *by rearranging components contained in the common device*, in accordance with the accessed state detected by the status detecting unit.

Moreover, independent claim 24 recites detecting an accessed state to the common

device by the electronic apparatus; and rearranging components contained in the common device so as to control an operational state of the common device based on the currently detected accessed state.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 14 and 24 patentably distinguish over the prior art for at least the reasons provided above.

Claim 25 depends from claim 24 and inherits the patentability thereof. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 also patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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